

Organization & Governing Body

Criminal Lawyers' Association Organization & Governing Body

The Association is governed by an executive and board of directors elected by the members. There are 17 regions throughout the Province of Ontario, each with its own elected or appointed director serving on the Governing Body. There are eight directors elected from the Metropolitan Toronto area.

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**For more information contact:
Anthony Laycock, Executive Director**

CRIMINAL LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION
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About the Association

Criminal Lawyers' Association: Organization

The Criminal Lawyers' Association (CLA) is one of the largest specialty legal organizations in Canada, comprised of more than 1,000 members, including associate members from across Canada. The Association is a strong voice for criminal lawyers and everyone concerned with the quality of criminal justice, and regularly consults with all levels of government and the judiciary on all issues relating to the legislation and administration of criminal justice in Ontario and throughout the country. The Criminal Lawyers' Association strives to assist its members in every aspect of the practice of criminal litigation.

The Association is governed by an executive and board of directors elected by the members. The current President is Louise Botham. There are eight directors elected from the Metropolitan Toronto area. In addition, there are 17 regions throughout the Province of Ontario, each with its own elected or appointed director serving on the Governing Body.

The Association itself is almost 35 years old. On November 1st, 1971 ten of the leading criminal counsel in Ontario recognized the need for an organized voice to represent the criminal bar, and formed The Ontario Criminal Lawyers' Association. Those founding members - Hugh R. Locke, David G. Humphrey Sr., Gordon Ecclestone, Martin Kerbel, James Austin, William G. Murphy, Frances X. Fay, Clive Bynoe, Ronald Crane and Clare Lewis, as well as the members who joined their effort, contributed immensely to the Association through the years to achieve its successful position today.

The Association is committed to developing continuing education programs for criminal law practitioners and offers the most comprehensive annual criminal defence law conference in Canada. Hosted each fall, the three-day convention and education program includes leading counsel and lecturers from Canada and elsewhere. Guest speakers at conventions have included the former Chief Justice of Canada Antonio Lamer, former Chief Justice of Canada Brian Dickson, Bob Woodward of Watergate fame, American lawyers Gerry Spence and F. Lee Bailey, Lord Anthony Gifford, Counsel, the Birmingham Six case, former American Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour, former Attorney General of Canada Allan Rock, former Prime Minister Kim Campbell, former Canadian U.N. representative Stephen Lewis and other luminaries.

A highlight of each convention is the presentation of the G. Arthur Martin Criminal Justice Medal for outstanding contribution to criminal justice. G. Arthur Martin was Canada's greatest criminal advocate before he became a leading jurist with the Ontario Court of Appeal. Recipients of

the medal named in his honour are:

1. 1989 **G. Arthur Martin**
2. 1990 **Arthur Maloney**
3. 1991 **John J. Robinette**
4. 1992 **Charles L. Dubin**
5. 1993 **John LI. Edwards**
6. 1994 **Martin L. Friedland**
7. 1995 **Antonio Lamer**
8. 1996 **Earl J. Levy**
9. 1997 **Alan D. Gold**
10. 1998 **Louise Arbour**
11. 1999 **Peter deC. Cory**
12. 2000 **Austin Cooper**
13. 2001 **Edward Greenspan**
14. 2002 **Marlys Edwardh**
15. 2003 **Fred Kaufman**
16. 2004 **James Lockyer**
17. 2005 **Jack Pinkofsky**

The Criminal Lawyers' Association Newsletter, *For The Defence*, is Canada's foremost newsletter on Criminal Law. Published six times per year, it contains material to keep readers informed and up-to-date with legal developments. The Newsletter is highly regarded by lawyers, judges and academics throughout Canada and in many parts of the United States, and contributions from all sources are encouraged and appreciated.

CLA also takes advantage of the expertise of its membership through a strong committee structure. Active Committees of the Association include the Education Committee, Legislation Committee, Legal Aid Committee, Court Administration Committee, Outreach/Young Lawyers Committee, and the Interventions Committee, amongst others.

Our Legislation Committee is regularly asked to make submissions on behalf of our members to Legislative Committees at both the Commons and Senate level as well as Provincial Legislatures on all proposed Bills affecting criminal justice. Our Young Lawyers Committee presents free Education Programs for the benefit of our younger members. The Association is often called upon to seek intervenor status in cases before the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada.

The Criminal Lawyers' Association is an affiliate of the U.S. National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers, has strong ties with the New York State affiliate of that Association and works closely with The Canadian Counsel of Criminal Defence Lawyers (CCCDL), The County and District Law President's Association (CDLPA) and other key stakeholders.

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